

## Message Text

SECRET

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12

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
----- 117841

P R 091053Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6903

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY RABAT

S E C R E T AMMAN 0699

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, JO, MO, IR

SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE FOR MOROCCO

REF: TEHRAN 1267

1. ASSUMING MOROCCAN COMMITMENT FOR REPLACEMENT OF JORDANIAN F-5A'S IS FIRM AND POSSIBLE FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF USG, AND USG PERMISSION FOR TRANSFER OF 20 F-5A'S FROM JORDAN IS FEASIBLE, WE HAVE TAKEN A VERY PRELIMINARY LOOK AT THE ONGOING PROBLEM OF MOVEMENT.
2. WE ASSUME THAT TEHRAN (REFTEL) WOULD WISH TO OVE ALL OF ITS EQUIPMENT TO JORDAN. WE ALSO ASSUME THAT JORDAN WITH ONLY TWO C-130'S WOULD BE VERY HARD PRESSED TO GET VERY MUCH OF IT TO MOROCCO. SHIPMENT EQUIPMENT AND AMMUNITION WOULD BE A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM IF IRAN CONTEMPLATES PROVIDING EVEN A PERCENTAGE OF THE REQUEST MADE BY MOROCCO. JORDANIANS ARE THEREFORE LIKELY TO ASK WHETHER USG WOULD PROVIDE AIRCRAFT FOR SUCH A LIFT, PRESUMABLY ON THE BASIS THAT MOROCCO WILL REIMBURSE THE COSTS.
3. THERE IS A SECOND PROBLEM OF THE MOVEMENT OF THE F-5A AIRCRAFT. PRESUMABLY IRANIAN F-5A'S CAN BE FLOWN TO JORDAN IN THE SAME WAY (VIA SAUDI ARABIA) THAT ORIGINAL 30 WERE

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DELIVERED HERE BY RJAF PILOTS. WE SEE ONLY TWO POSSIBLE

OPTIONS FOR DELIVERY FROM HERE: (A) FLYING THE AIRCRAFT WITH JORDANIAN PILOTS TO MOROCCO, OR (B) DISASSEMBLY AND AIR SHIPMENT, AGAIN PRESUMABLY BY US AIRCRAFT REIMBURSED BY MOROCCANS. WITH REGARD TO PLAN (A), WE HAVE LOOKED AT A TENTATIVE ROUTING WHICH (GIVEN F-5A RANGE LIMITATIONS OF ABOUT 600 NAUTICAL MILES) WOULD HAVE TO INCLUDE TOUCHDOWNS IN GREECE (RHODES OR CRETE); ITALY (SIGONELLA IN SICILY); AND SPAIN (PALMA). JORDANIANS BELIEVE THEY CAN OBTAIN SYRIAN OVERFLIGHT CLEARANCE. THEY MAY LATER ALSO ASK US FOR OUR VIEWS ON AND PERHAPS ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING CLEARANCE FROM GREECE, ITALY AND SPAIN. ON PLAN (B) THEY MIGHT ALSO ASK FOR DIRECT US ASSISTANCE FOR KNOCK DOWN AND AERIAL TRANSPORT OF F-5A'S. WE ASSUME DEPARTMENT AND DEFENSE CAN GIVE SOME THOUGHT TO THESE ISSUES AND PROVIDE US WITH A TIMELY RESPONSE TO EXPECTED JORDAN FOLLOW UP REQUESTS, INCLUDING PARTICULARLY IF US AIRCRAFT COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE AND AT WHAT COST TO MOROCCANS OR OTHERS.

PICKERING

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NNN

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